

**Construction Memo No. 11-02**

**MEMO TO:** Chief District Engineer  
TEBM's for Construction  
District Construction Engineer  
Resident Engineers  
Active Consultant Engineers

**FROM:** Dexter Newman, P. E. Director  
Division of Construction

**DATE:** November 25, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Stream Channel Restoration  
Of Channel Changes

In recent months, the Department has come into conflicts with regulating agencies because of inadvertent failure to follow the intended work in stream relocations. Much of this is caused by a lack of experience with this type of work, differing terminology, and plan detail errors. Small discrepancies have become exaggerated, and the Department has been threatened with having permits rescinded

The Division of Highway Design and the Division of Environmental Analysis have teamed up to approach this type of work with clearer plans and more attention to highlighting the necessary changes to meet the permit, which will help future projects. For the present, project inspectors shall keep in mind that channel changes and stream channel restorations can be very complex and critical.

With this in mind, before any channel change or stream bank restoration takes place, an on-site meeting shall take place between the District Construction staff, the Resident Engineer, the Contractor, and a representative of the Division of Environmental Analysis. This meeting shall take place *before* any work, including clearing and grubbing, takes place in the existing channel. This meeting should iron out the limits of the work, the meaning of terminology, timing of plantings, inspection guidelines, etc. Please contact either Mel Ramsey or Stephen Bowling, as appropriate, in Central Office Division of Construction to facilitate activities with the Division of Environmental Analysis.

It is the intent of the Department that all work called for in the project permits be carried out to the issuing entities satisfaction. If this is not what is actually detailed in the plans or proposal, then we need to reach agreement on what is to be built and add the extra work by change order. The “Pre-Restoration” meeting is the key to making sure all parties understand the intent of the stream restoration work. If problems arise or any field personnel have any questions during the stream restoration process, please ask and get clarification rather than making assumptions. The modern theory of stream restoration is something few construction personnel are familiar with, and evolves on every project.

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